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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 31, 2009

HARTFORD POLICE RESPOND TO 2 HOMICIDES

HARTFORD: On August 30, 2009 at approximately 11:34 a.m. Hartford Police responded to 121 Henry Street on a report of an unresponsive female. Upon arrival, officers located a female, later identified as Judith Rivera (12/22/76) of 121 Henry Street, Hartford, Conn. suffering from multiple stab wounds. EMS personnel arrived and pronounced the female deceased.

Detectives from the Hartford Police Major Crimes Division and the Crime Scene Division responded to the scene and began an immediate investigation. While the investigation is on-going, this incident appears to be domestic related.

On August 30, 2009 at approximately 1:32 p.m. Hartford Police responded to the area of 147 Lawrence Street on a report of a party shot. Upon arrival, officers located a male party, later identified as Hector Torres, 05/09/90 of 647 New Britain Ave, Hartford suffering from gunshot wounds. The victim was transported by ambulance to Hartford Hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

A suspect was observed fleeing from the south on Lawrence Street then east on Grand Street on a yellow bicycle. At 1:33 p.m., Hartford Police responded to Broad Street and Grand Street for a motor vehicle accident involving a bicyclist. The bicyclist, who matched the description of the suspect involved in the shooting at Lawrence Street, ran north on Broad Street away from the accident scene with a black handgun in his possession.

A short while later, the suspect, later identified as **Gilberto Vargas (12-18-72) of no certain address, Hartford, Conn.** who still had possession of a handgun, was located hiding in a closet inside 688 Broad Street. He was treated and released from Hartford Hospital for the injuries he sustained during the accident. He was charged with Criminal Possession of Firearm, Carrying a Pistol Without a Permit and Stealing a Firearm and a \$500,000.00 bond was ordered.

The Investigations with respect to the shooting at 147 Lawrence Street and the motor vehicle accident at Broad and Grand Street are on-going.

Anyone with information about either of these incidents is asked to contact Sergeant Rob Davis of the Hartford Police Department's Major Crimes Division at 860-757-4256 or to call the Hartford Crime Stoppers at 860-722-8477. Anonymous, confidential tips may be made by calling [Hartford Crime Stoppers](#) at 860-722-TIPS (8477).

Hartford Crime Stoppers is a community and business based organization that awards up to \$1,000.00 for information from confidential sources that lead to the arrest of a suspect in a police investigation



[860-722-TIPS \(8477\)](tel:8607228477)

Contact: Sergeant Christene Mertes, Public Information Officer, Hartford Police Department, (860) 757-4017
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